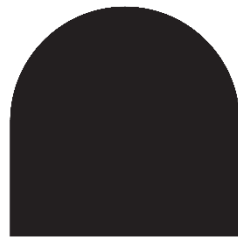


# Call for Artists:

Arts Council Malta

Series of Bookmarks



ARTS  
COUNCIL  
MALTA

ISSUED: FEBRUARY 2025

# 1. Introduction

Arts Council Malta, in collaboration with the Malta Community of Illustrators, is launching a unique opportunity for six illustrators to bring their creative vision to life. This call for artists seeks to showcase the talent, diversity, and vibrancy of Malta's artistic community by designing a series of bookmarks that visually represent Arts Council Malta's key strategic areas.

We are committed to fostering a thriving artistic ecosystem where different voices and styles can shine. This project aims to not only highlight the strategic priorities of Arts Council Malta but also to celebrate the rich tapestry of Malta's creative talent. Each bookmark will serve as a canvas for illustrators to express their unique artistic language while engaging with themes that resonate with our cultural landscape.

We are seeking illustrators with distinct, diverse styles to contribute to this dynamic project, creating designs that will captivate, inspire, and reflect the multifaceted nature of our arts community. Whether your work is bold and contemporary or rooted in traditional techniques, we want to see your interpretation of our strategic themes. This collaboration aims to elevate the role of illustrators, turning each bookmark into a small piece of art that communicates the values and ambitions of Malta's cultural sector.

This is a chance to make your mark—literally and figuratively—on a project that aligns with the Council's vision of accessibility, inclusion, and support for the arts. We invite you to be part of this celebration of artistic excellence and cultural diversity.

## 1.1. PROJECT DETAILS

Number of Illustrators Required: 6

Number of Bookmarks: 6 (one bookmark per artist)

Themes to Illustrate:

1. Internationalisation
2. Education and Development
3. Community and Diversity
4. Creative Entrepreneurship
5. Public Investment
6. Research and Evaluation

Remuneration: €500 excl. VAT per bookmark

## 1.2. TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	TIMEFRAME
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 – 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

## 1.3. ARTS COUNCIL MALTA'S STRATEGY

Arts Council Malta (ACM) promotes innovation within Malta's cultural and creative sectors while also safeguards the dynamic development of the country's cultural characteristics. We have built a sustainable creative economy for artists and practitioners, facilitating participation and continuing to serve as a strategic leader and catalyst within the sectors. Furthermore, ACM also works to increase the accessibility of cultural and creative activities within Malta's cultural ecosystem.

Strategy 2025 has been designed together with the people it will most impact. Our participatory approach to the strategy's creation is being practised with immediacy. Culture is where new narratives and mindsets are developed and new societal shifts occur. Importantly, it is an enabler of long-term sustainability. Care, Create, Flourish is our mantra, best capturing how ACM will enable and position the sustainable and inclusive growth of Malta's cultural and creative sectors as being integral to the well-being of all. Sustainability and inclusivity shall be endorsed holistically and comprehensively in policy directions, funding and investment. [Check out Strategy 2025 here.](#)

Applicants are required to consider the [Right to Culture – Resource Pack](#) when developing their proposal in relation to how they engage with communities and the considerations of everyone's cultural rights in their work. The resource pack is aimed at increasing awareness regarding inclusivity and supporting the implementation of cultural rights in our day-to-day practice.

Applicants are also required to consider the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#) when proposing their operational and programming activities to ensure acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and creative practitioners which embraces artistic freedom, accessibility, formal/informal/non-formal skill recognition, decent socio-economic conditions, non-discrimination and equity, ethical considerations and adherence to intellectual property rights and international labour law. The Charter for the Status of the Artist is meant to provide a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and cultural and creative sectors, ensuring that any action is aligned with the ultimate long-term vision of elevating the status of artists in Malta in line with their tangible value to society.

## 1.4. THEMES TO BE ILLUSTRATED

### 1. Internationalisation

This area focuses on positioning Maltese artists and cultural practitioners on the international stage. It emphasises the importance of cross-border collaborations, global networking opportunities, and

participation in international platforms to enhance visibility and recognition of Maltese art and culture.

## 2. Education and Development

This strategic area promotes lifelong learning in the arts, from early education to professional development. It supports initiatives that encourage artistic growth, skill acquisition, and educational opportunities for individuals at all stages of their creative journey.

## 3. Community and Diversity

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to arts, culture, and community well-being, fostering participation, removing barriers, and ensuring everyone can contribute and thrive, thus promoting human rights and individual potential.

## 4. Creative Entrepreneurship

ACM champions creative entrepreneurship to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in Malta's cultural sectors, emphasizing how attitudes toward risk, innovation, and diverse business models shape responses to technological, social, and workplace challenges.

## 5. Public Investment

Arts Council Malta values the public impact of arts and culture, viewing cultural engagement as a right, and aims to expand its support by diversifying funding and investment to enrich lives and communities.

## 6. Research and Evaluation

Research has been central to our work for the past decade and will continue guiding the council's efforts, particularly in ACM's strategic planning, where it fosters a culture of openness, critique, and analysis to inform decisions on operations, partnerships, and future growth.

# 2. Eligibility

- Open to illustrators based in Malta, including members of the Malta Community of Illustrators and independent artists.
- Artists are encouraged to submit a **CV and portfolio** showcasing their work.
- Illustrators with distinct styles are highly encouraged to apply, as the goal is to represent a wide range of artistic expressions.

## 2.1. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **CV:** Detailing relevant experience and qualifications.
- **Portfolio:** A selection of previous work demonstrating your illustration skills.  
**Statement:** A brief description of your artistic approach and how it aligns with the themes outlined. Kindly specify if there are particular themes, you'd like to illustrate.

## 2.2. SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be evaluated based on artistic quality, style diversity, and relevance to the strategic themes of Arts Council Malta. Selected artists will be notified by the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

## 2.3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This evaluation criteria will ensure that selections are made based on artistic merit, relevance to the project's strategic areas, and the potential for creative diversity.

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

### 1. Artistic Quality and Originality (40 points)

This criterion assesses the overall quality of previous works presented in the portfolio, including technical skills, creativity, and originality. Emphasis will be placed on the unique artistic language of the illustrator.

### 2. Relevance to Strategic Themes (30 points)

This criterion evaluates how well the submitted portfolio and artistic statement align with the strategic areas of Arts Council Malta (Internationalisation, Education and Development, Community and Diversity, Creative Entrepreneurship, Public Investment or Research and Evaluation).

### 3. Style Diversity and Innovation (20 points)

This criterion evaluates how distinctive and innovative the artist's style is, and how well it brings diversity to the project. The project seeks a range of visual styles that can communicate Arts Council Malta's strategic areas in unique ways.

### 4. Professional Experience and Qualifications (10 points)

This criterion reviews the CV, focusing on relevant experience, education, and past projects. Priority will be given to illustrators with experience in projects aligned with the arts and cultural sector.

## 3. Submitting the application

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations very carefully.
2. Check whether you are eligible to apply.
3. Press the [link](#) that will take you to the online application system.
4. If you do not have a profile, create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on 'Register' and filling in the details. Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM's CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.

5. From the Open Calls section, select the application for the Call for Artists
6. Fill in all the required information from the online application and attach the supporting documentation.
7. Submit the application. You will be receiving an acknowledgement following the submission. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on [applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt](mailto:applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt).

Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this fund, you can call us on 2334 7230 Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 16:00 or email us on [fundinfo@artscouncil.mt](mailto:fundinfo@artscouncil.mt).

Applications handed in after 12.00 (noon) of the respective deadline cannot be accepted.

## 4. Implementation of Project

Following the selection of the illustrators ACM will enter into an agreement with the illustrators to carry out the implementation during the following timeframe:

14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Illustrators to design the bookmarks
01 <sup>st</sup> August 2025 – 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Discussion between ACM and the illustrators to finalise the bookmarks
01 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 – 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Illustrators to provide the bookmarks to ACM

The total amount due to the illustrators will be disbursed after the submission of the bookmark by the illustrator, following approval by the Council.

### Need advice?

Arts Council Malta offers pre-submission consultation services to help secure support for your project. We are there every step of the way. We can help you determine whether the core concept and profile of your project are in line with the targeted support mechanism, and provide feedback on the way you plan to present your project. Plan ahead and get in touch with us at least four weeks before the submission deadline, to make the best of our services.

You are welcome to call us on 2334 7230 on weekdays between 09:00 and 16:00 or to send us an email on [fundinfo@artscouncil.mt](mailto:fundinfo@artscouncil.mt).

Guidelines updated on **11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**